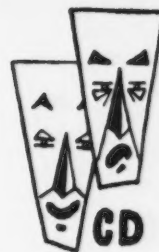


critical digest



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Oct 16, 1961 Vol XIII No 30 The Weekly NYC Theatre Newsletter Digest Service-Published 52 weeks a year- \$25 per Year

This Week in NYC

Two Broadway producers tested unusual cut-rate ticket gimmicks. Blood, Sweat and Stanley Poole published "twofer" tickets daily in Times and News display ads. Newspaper coupons were redeemable for one week only, prior to distribution through regular channels of "twofer" ducats. LOOK! We've Come Through advertised \$1.15 to \$3.45 preview tickets Oct 18-24. New Hugh Wheeler play will present week of previews at Hudson instead of an out-of-town try-out. The Caretaker and Kean are continuing the sale of \$1 top balcony seats.

Plays

Fiorello! to close Oct 28 after 796 performances... Irma la Douce must move from Plymouth Oct 31... No Strings due Feb 22 at Hellinger... Isle of Children by Robert Joseph to be presented Feb 28 by Lester Osterman, starring Paty Duke... Rx: Murder by Richard Levinson and William Link to be presented Jan 15 by Paul Gregory with Joseph Cotton, Thomas Mitchell, Agnes Moorhead.

Players

Robert Weede, Milk and Honey, missed several preview performances due to illness, Robert Rue subbed... William Hansen, Joe de Santis, Geoffrey Lumb signed for Daughter of Silence... Elizabeth Ashley, 21 year old understudy to Barbara Bel Geddes, Mary Mary, signed for featured role in Take Her She's Mine Dec 21... Morris Carnovsky to make Broadway singing debut in A Family Affair Feb 3... Chico Marx, 70, died... Percy Waram, 80, died.

Playhouse

Official notice of sale of Hudson Playhouse, 141 W 44, by NBC to parking garage builder and operator Samuel Lehrer for more than \$1 million was announced. Demolition will not commence until after run of LOOK! We've Come Through has been completed.

NYC Calendar

The Cave Dwellers-Greenwich Mews (131 W 13) 10/15. Elizabeth Roberts & Maurice Schaded present limited run revival of 1957 William Saroyan play, directed by Michael Lindsay-Hogg, featuring Geraldine Fitzgerald.

Do You Know the Milky Way? -Rose 10/16. Ninon Tallon-Dick Buttons-Paul Feigay-Roger Stevens presents new play by Karl Wittlinger, directed by Herbert Berghof with Hal Holbrook and George Voskovec.

Another Evening with Harry Stoones-Gramercy Arts (138 E 27) 10/17. G Adams Jordan & Fred Mueller present new revue with music, lyrics, sketches by Jeff Harris, directed by Jordan with Shelia Copelan, Diana Sands.

Diff'rent-Mermaid (420 W 42) 10/17. Torquay Co-Ruth Kaner present revival of 1921 O'Neill drama directed by Paul Shyre with Marian Seldes, Michael Higgins, Robert Drivas.

A Shot in the Arm-Booth 10/18. Leland Hayward presents Harry Kurnitz adaptation of Marcel Achard's play, directed by Harold Clurman with Julie Harris, William Shatner, Walter Matthau.

A Cook for Mr. General-Playhouse 10/19. William Darrid-Eleanore Saidenberg-Leonard Ruskin present new comedy by Steven Gathers, adapted from his 1957 TV play. David Pressman replaced ill Fielder Cook as director. With Bill Travers, Roland Winters, Alan Bunce, John McGiver.

Anthony on Overtime-Blackfriars (316 W 57) 10/20. Blackfriars Guild presents new play by Rose Grieco, directed by Michael Kray.

Broadway Business

Variety reports continued increases in most shows. Sail Away joined sellout club of Mary Mary, Carnival, Sound of Music.

Off Broadway

Bella a new musical with book and lyrics by Tom O'Malley, music by Jane Douglass to be presented Nov 7 by Lance Karklie-Ned Hendrickson at East 11th St Theatre featuring Will Jordan, directed by Richard Shank... Toinette a modern musical version of Moliere's "La Malade Imaginaire" with book by J. L. Rodale, music and lyrics by Deed Myers, directed by Curt Conway to be presented Nov 17 by Rodale... Signs Along the Cynic Route a new revue with songs by Will Holt to be presented in Nov by Precarious Productions... Sing Muse! a new musical about the Trojan wars by Joe Raposa and Erich Segal to be presented in Dec by Robert Feinstein, staged by Bill Penn... Ionesco's Victims of Duty to be produced in Nov by Harry Joe Brown, Jr.

Yiddish Theatre

Bei Mir Bist Du Shoen new Yiddish-American musical by Sholom Secunda and Jacob Jacobs starring and directed by Leo Fuchs opens Oct 21 at Anderson (2nd Av & 4th St)... Going to America, Israel Rosenberg's adaptation of a Sholom Aleichem play opens Oct 28 at Educational Alliance (197 E Bway.)

TV Theatre Notes

CBS Ed Sullivan Show to present 30 minute segment of Do Re Mi Oct 22 with Broadway cast.

Theatre Film Notes

Say Darling film to be produced in NY playhouse by Jule Styne with most of the original cast... New film title of Five Finger Exercise is Five Kinds of Love... Two for the Seesaw film to co-star Shirley MacLaine and Robert Mitchum... Blood Sweat and Stanley Poole film rights bought by America Corp.

Theatre Record Notes

"Noel Coward Sings Sail Away" disc due.

Everybody Loves Opal-Longacre 10/11. 5 pros- and 2 cons-*Times*, *Herald Tribune*-filed on John Patrick's new comedy-farce starring Eileen Heckart, directed by Cyril Ritchard, presented by Roger Stevens-Seven Arts Productions with Stubby Kaye, Donald Harron, Brenda Vaccaro. Reviews were most widely diverse of season. All but *Times* aisle-sitter raved over Heckart, many applauded newcomer Vaccaro. Affirmative votes ranged from raves to mild approval of script, negatives were harsh pans for all concerned. Leading pros Chapman, *News*, raved about goofy, extravagant, enjoyable play with wonderful, simply wonderful star. Coleman, *Mirror*, in milder tone enjoyed one joke script padded with chuckle-provoking gadgetry by director Ritchard and set designer Jo Mielziner with triumphant Heckart. *Mirror* man recommended play to those who liked *Come Blow Your Horn*, for those willing to forego literary quality for honest-to-goodness howls. Watts, *Post*, found it almost consistently, shamelessly entertaining comedy in spite of its ramshackle manufacture. Nadel, *World Telegram & Sun*, also filed rave for show that re-established comedy as one of the performing arts in show of small pretensions and great warmth. McClain, *Journal American*, list his mild pro for Heckart, but not for play that is only intermittently funny. Dissenters Taubman, *Times*, and Kerr, *Herald Tribune*, panned script and excused players. *Times* man even thought star was wasted in remorseless attempt to be funny with aphorisms, wisecracks and sight gags. *Herald Tribune* man only okayed star and set, interesting enough to spend first act just touring it.

Blood Sweat and Stanley Poole-Morosco 10/5. 2 pros-*Journal American* and *World Telegram & Sun*- and 5 cons-filed on new peacetime army comedy by William and James Goldman, presented by Roger Stevens-Fields Productions with Darren McGavin and Peter Fonda. All raved over the debut of 21 year old Fonda as a polished actor-comic, as well as for comedy talents of McGavin in his first starring role. Two pro voters enjoyed first play by new writers, though both thought it started slowly. Majority vetoed it as thin farce with some funny moments. Two critics-*Times*, *News*, compared it unfavorably to TV's "Sgt Bilko" series.

Milk and Honey- Beck- 10/10. 6 pros- and 1 con-*Herald Tribune*-filed on new musical about Israel with book by Don Appell, music and lyrics by Jerry Herman, directed by Albert Marre, dancing by Donald Saddler with Molly Picon, Mimi Benzell, Robert Weede, Tommy Rall. Reviewers were unanimous in praise for all the leads, especially with the Broadway debut of Yiddish star Picon. All cheered music and dancing, three (*Times*, *Post*, *World Telegram & Sun*) noting authenticity of atmosphere. Views on script ranged from workable to awful. Several critics remarked that Weede was in fine voice in spite of news that he had been ill. Sole negative voter liked much of the dancing and music, but feared book was too much like travelogue. Affirmative aisle-sitter Taubman, *Times*, applauded modest, engaging book, the music ranging from functional to exultant, and the entire cast. Chapman, *News*, summed it as a rather sticky plot, a charming cast, several zippy songs, extraordinarily good dances. Coleman, *Mirror*, recommended colorful, tuneful show with some of the best dancing to be seen this season, a striking, spectacular production in spite of some dubious moments of taste in book. Watts, *Post*, liked fine score, stimulating dances, admirable performances. McClain, *Journal American*, raved for everything but workable script in sumptuous, melodic, rousing show. Nadel, *World Telegram & Sun*, felt secondary players and company members fared better than leads, he also suggested reworking of some of the scenes between Benzell and Weede. Solo con voter Kerr, *Herald Tribune* felt that at best it has the makings of a gala holiday show at the Music Hall. But between the big numbers Kerr thought it was not only homespun, it is too home-movie.



OFF
BROADWAY
WEEK

Seven Comes Eleven- Upstairs at the Downstairs- (37 W 56) 10/7. 3 pros-*Times*, *Herald Tribune*, *News*-filed on new cabaret revue presented by Julius Monk with Philip Bruns, Ceil Cabot, Rex Robbins, Steve Roland, Donna Sanders, Mary Louise Wilson. Gelb, *Times*, enjoyed gay, witty, subtle cabaret show with versatile performers, presented with astonishing fluency and verve on a vest-pocket stage. In spite of the inevitable low spots, the high spots more than compensate for them, Gelb concluded. Crist, *Herald Tribune*, raved about brightest, best cabaret revue to-date, fast paced with satiric sting and bubbles of fun. Watts, *News*, rated it the most sharply topical of all presented in past weeks.



DRAMA
DESK
REPORT

"Action on the Theatre Crisis" was considered at first meeting of season of "Drama Desk", the NY theatre editors and reporters organization, at Playbill Restaurant.

Rep. John Lindsay (R-NY) proposed several measures to aid the economic plight of NY theatre including--- repeal of the 10% Federal theatre admission tax, a total re-examination of theatre real estate taxes, new warehouse buildings for theatre enterprises, establishment of a NYC post to see that the arts are given recognition and status. He warned that no quick action on the Federal tax could be taken until the theatre industry organized an effective lobby in Washington.

Robert Whitehead, president of the League of NY Theatres, stated that action was going to be taken soon against the problem of "ice", alleged price boosting tactics by box-office men. He also noted that if the ticket prices had been reduced 5% with the expected repeal of the NYC admission tax, they would only have to be raised soon again due to increased costs.



NYC
FUTURE
CALENDAR

Kwamina-54th St 10/23... Clandestine on Morning Line-Actors Play 10/24... Yves Montand-Golden 10/24... Saroyan Twin-Bill- East End 10/24... LOOK! We've Come Through-Hudson 10/25... Merry widow- Jan Hus- 10/26... Write Me a Murder- Belasco 10/26... O Marry Me-Gate- 10/27... Go Show Me a Dragon- Midway- 10/27... The Buskers- Cricket 10/28... All in Love- Martinique- 10/30 Garden of Sweets- ANTA 10/31

Complaisant Lover- Barrymore 11/1... Kean-Broadway 11/2... Go Fight City Hall- Mayfair-11/2... Bella-East 11th St- 11/7... Sharon's Grave-Maidman 11/8... Gideon - Plymouth 11/9... Shadows of Heroes- York -11/14... The Apple- Living 11/15... Toinette- 11/17... Gay Life- 11/18 Sunday in NY- Cort- 11/20... The Policeman- At Sea- East 74-11/20... Red Roses for Me- G Mews- 11/20... Man for All Seasons-ANTA 11/22... Simone- 11/29... Daughter of Silence- 11/30



GREEN
ROOM
DEPARTMENT



PROS & CONS BY TMK

PREXY BARD... White House program of Stratford, Conn., Shakespeare Festival scenes saluted by Times and Herald Tribune editorials. Former found it pleasant to have two cultivated people in the White House who also enjoy Shakespeare. Presidents are not elected for their taste in the arts, but the informed taste of the Kennedys happily extends their influence into an area of life that lies outside the range of politics, Times concludes. While Herald Tribune ponders what Shakespeare's influence on politics might be. Both parties must be prepared to take their chances. Will some one nominate a ticket of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, daily asks?

TAX BET... NYC Board of Estimate public hearing on the repeal of the 5% theatre admission tax will be a farce, predicts "In the Back-Room", Post. At a closed session of the board, it's members promised Mayor Wagner they would vote to repeal the tax.

CRITICAL THOUGHTS... Chekhov and the Moscow Art Theatre have had a profound influence on the American theatre, points out Atkinson, Times. There is something almost slavish about the uncritical way in which we have accepted them as models... The avant gardists are playing practical jokes on the public and making them look like suckers, pans Coleman, Mirror. Critic is getting sick and tired of sitting through dissections of human amoeba... Will Tennessee Williams' autobiography "The Rebellious Puritan" tell why he favors unsavory subjects, wonders Parsons, Journal American.

WHAT CRITIC LIKE... NY theatre critics are apt to sail their hats into the air over anything that is grubby, dismal, and peopled with repulsive types such as-- drug addicts, pushers, compulsive alcoholics, nymphomaniacs, sex deviates, or sadists, sums Robb, World Telegram & Sun, judging the first reviews of the new season. While they are suspicious of almost anything that is gay, light-hearted and designed to give simple surcease to the tired and hungry businessman.

HITS REVISITED... The Sound of Music first performance with Martha Wright replacing Mary Martin approved by Nadel, World Telegram & Sun, inspite of rough start in which Wright seemed more mature than Martin. Donald Scott, who replaced Theodore Bikel, and Elizabeth Howell, who replaced Patricia Neway, were also applauded.

DRAMA MAIL BOX... The best thing in the world that could happen would be the extinction of the living theatre, charges Times reader, restaurant owner Joe Brody. He is tired of seeing claptrap in the theatre.

CHECKING THE ADS... The Sap of Life ads which quoted Watts, Post, as saying show is "haunting" went a little far, reviewer corrected. He applied term to one song.

INTERVIEW HI-LITES... Richard Rodgers discovered that working alone for the first time on No Strings brings a strange conflict of loneliness and fulfillment, he told Fields, Mirror. When in trouble he imagines how Oscar Hammerstein would solve the problem. Next year when he starts work with Alan Jay Lerner Rodgers thinks he will have to write a different kind of music.

The Caretaker is a fascinating, stimulating, brilliant British play superbly presented and performed. Ingenious direction adds depth and scope to what could have been a static philosophical discussion. The result instead is an exciting theatrical presentation that can be taken, understood or misunderstood, as many different ways as there are members of the audience. The author and the trio of fine players are not giving any hints offstage as to the meaning, so it is every fan for himself. Donald Pleasence portrayal is complete, real and frightening on any and all levels, the two supporting British cast members are perfect. Taken as a modern morality play the delineation of the selfishness of most everybody in the world is a vivid theatrical lesson not to be forgotten for a long time. Few plays these days move an audience to discussion of the play during the intermissions, but this exciting play by a new British writer will be discussed at the intermissions and for many days to come by everyone who sees it.

Blood Sweat and Stanley Poole is an old fashioned farce with all the fun but without the noise. It is many degrees more literate than the ancient model and it is performed by two excellent comics, 21 year old Peter Fonda and Darren McGavin. Direction and performances are tightly controlled and the peace-time army comedy never slips into slapstick. The first stage play of the brothers Goldman, William and James, includes some very funny comments on modern testing methods and a variety of newsworthy topics.

Milk and Honey is a warm, colorful, musical extravaganza with a variety of stirring songs beautifully sung and danced. The excellent singing chorus and orchestra, together with the fine voices of the principals, are the backbone of the musical tribute to Israel. The book, while neither great comedy and/or literature, is better than average for the simple fact that it is not aimed at insulting the audience's intelligence. With sole exception of a non-singing ingenue the cast radiates charm that crosses the footlights and covers the nonsense of the script.

Don't just sit there, everybody go to LOOK! We've Come Through, cut rate or regular tickets, good or bad reviews. The Hudson Playhouse will stand as long as the new Hugh Wheeler play continues. After that it will be torn down and replaced by a parking garage. Theatre buffs know that "miracles" take place on W 44th St, so perhaps something can be done to rescue the famed playhouse if it is still standing.

All's fair in love and drama criticism. But how come several drama reviewers were able this week to compare Blood Sweat and Stanley Poole to a TV series that has been off the air for two years. Maybe they should have their TV sets taken away from them so they can cover Off Broadway instead?

Though no political candidate seems interested in "The Little TinBox" song from Fiorello!, NYC Republican candidate for Mayor Louis Lefkowitz will use "Hey, Look Me Over!" from Wildcat.



OUTER
BROADWAY
THEATRE
LETTER

College Theatre

500 seat theatre being constructed at Lamar State College of Technology, Beaumont, Tex. To be completed Sept 1962 it will feature a "wrap-around" stage ... Two small theatres to be built in new Communications Arts Center, Loyola Univ, Los Angeles opening Sept 1962. One is a 242 seat indoor theatre, the other a 200 seat roof-garden theatre-studio.

Joseph Stockdale on a leave of absence from Purdue Univ, Lafayette, Ind, this year to serve as acting head of drama department at Williams College, Williamstown, Mass. William Saroyan and Howard Bay will be artists-in-residence for a term each at Purdue... Moss Hart to conduct seminar on Contemporary American theatre at 1962 summer session of Univ of Denver, Colo.

New translations of Brecht's The Exception and the Rule and Gogol's Gamblers by Eric Bentley will be presented by Columbia Players, Columbia Univ, NYC, Nov 30-Dec 3, directed by Isaiah Sheffer.

San Diego, Calif, State College Theatre second annual "Original Full Length Play Contest" deadline is Jan 5, 1962. Prize is \$300 and production this season.

New Playhouses

Brooks Atkinson, W McNeil Lowry, and Capt Francis Pickens Miller, special asst. for education and cultural affairs State Dept, spoke at dedication of Arena Stage, Washington, D. C. \$850,000 playhouse.

AETA

Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse awarded New England Theatre Conference's plaque for "Outstanding Creative Achievement in the American Theatre" at group's tenth annual conference Oct 8 at Newton, Mass, High School.

Award Dept.

Rodgers & Hammerstein Award of \$1000 and bronze medallion to be announced in Jan for person in greater Boston area who "has done most for the theatre in 1961."

Community Theatres

Richmond, Ind, Civic Theatre opened 21st season with Oklahoma directed by Norbert Silbiger... Town & Gown Theatre, Birmingham, Ala, to tour ten cities this year.

Winter Repertory

Naked to Mine Enemies by Charles Ferguson to be presented at Dallas Theatre Center, directed by Norman Corwin. In Feb Francoise Tone will star in Dallas Theatre Center production of The Crossing by Howard Fast. Script, originally titled "The Unvanquished" concerns Washington's crossing of Delaware.

Circle Arts Theatre, San Diego, Calif, to present first eight week season of straight plays, following inaugural 16 week season of musicals... Krapp's Last Tape opens season at Crest Theatre, Toronto with co-owner Donald Davis returning to repeat his Off Broadway success.

Shakespeare

Stratford, Ont, Festival to remodel its apron stage making it higher, wider and more flexible.

Summer Playhouses

Bucks County Playhouse, New Hope, Penn planning tour of 60 Penn. cities by 1963. Theatre was named State Theatre by 1959 bill.

Road Shows

Actors Equity and League of NY Theatres agreed on Jan 1, 1962 as date they will refuse to present productions in segregated theatres.

Paris

Johnny Couer Roman Gary's first play to be presented in Jan with Francois Perier at Theatre Milhodie.

Europe

Call Me By My Rightful Name to be presented at City Theatre, Malin Sweden by Lars Schmidt.

Two William Gibson plays are hits in Madrid. The Miracle Worker opened to rave notices with Maribel Ayuso and Loal Cardona. Two for the Seesaw is in its second month.

London

Bonne Soupe to be presented Oct 19 with Coral Browne and Erica Rogers, directed by Eleanor Fazin... A Wreath for Udomo William Branch's adaptation of Peter Abrams' novel of Africa which was planned for NYC to debut Oct 29 at Lyric, Hammersmith directed by Philip Burton... Othello opened at Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-on-Avon with John Gielgud, Dorothy Tutin, Peggy Ashcroft... Michael Bentham to take year's leave of absence as Old Vic director starting next Easter.

Current Road Tours

Complaisant Lover- Colonial Boston 10/16

Garden of Sweets- Walnut Philadelphia 10/16

Gay Life- Fisher, Detroit 9/30

Gideon- Locust, Philadelphia 10/14

Kean- Shubert, Philadelphia 10/10

Kicks & Co- Aire Crown, Chicago 10/11

Write Me A Murder- Wilbur Boston 10/9

Best Man- Blackstone, Chicago 10/2

Bye Bye Birdie- Shubert, Boston 10/9

Gypsy- Biltmore, Los Angeles 10/2

Fiorello!- Nixon, Pittsburgh 10/16

Miracle Worker- Hanna, Cleveland 10/16

Music Man- Pabst, Milwaukee 10/16

Taste of Honey- Royal Alexandra, Toronto 10/9

Tenth Man- Shubert, New Haven 10/16

"CD" digests all theatre material in the 2100 pages of 7 NY daily papers of the preceding week. "CD" subscribers are invited to inquire further for more specific data on current reviews, back reviews and out-of-town tryout reviews via mail, phone or drop by for coffee and facts when in NYC.



